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Montana. Dept. of
Fish, Wildlife,
and Parks
[Environmental
assessment for the
Bannack Fence
Project]

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na Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715

September 8, 1994

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106,
POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Health & Environmental Sciences, Director's Office,
Cogswell Building, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
    Director's Office
    Parks Division
    Fisheries Division
    Wildlife Division
    Lands Section
    Design and Construction
    Legal Unit
    Mary Ellen McDonald
Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office,
POB 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
Montana State Library, 1515 E. 6th Ave. POB 201800, Helena,
MT 59620-1800
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena,
MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P. O. Box 924, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Beaverhead County Commissioners, 2 Pacific, Dillon, MT 59725
Jerry DiMarco, POB 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Bannack Association, Inc. PLB 1426, Dillon, MT 59725
Bannack State Park, 4200 Bannack Road, Dillon, MT 59725
Montana Wildlife Federation, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624-1175
Bob Schaffner, 4100 Bannack Road, Dillon, MT 59725
Representative Bill Tash, 45 Vista Drive, Dillon, MT 59725
Bill Armstrong, 309 W. Bannack, Dillon, MT 59725
Senator Charles Swysgood, 506 S. Atlantic, Dillon, MT 59725
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, POB 728, Libby,
MT 59923

PLEASE RETUR

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Bannack Fence Project, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted until 5:00pm on October 15, 1994. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at 994-4042. All comments may be sent to the undersigned qt 1400 S. 19th, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Stephen L Lewis

Stephen L. Lewis
Regional Supervisor

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Construction of a fence around the Bannack Townsite.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action** Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Bureau of Land Management.

3. **Name of Project** Bannack Townsite Fence.

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**Agency

5. **If Applicable:**

   Estimated Construction/Commencement Date Fall, 1994
   Estimated Completion Date Spring, 1995
   Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 90%

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**
   Bannack State Park, Beaverhead County in Range 11W,
   Township 8 South, Section 6.

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

   (a) Developed:
   residential . . . . . __ acres
   industrial . . . . . . __ acres

   (b) Open Space/Woodlands/
   Recreation 100 acres

   (c) Wetlands/Riparian
   Areas . . . . 30 acres

   (d) Floodplain . . . . __ acres

   (e) Productive:
   irrigated cropland . . . . . __ acres
   dry cropland . . . . __ acres
   forestry . . . . __ acres
   rangeland . . . . __ acres
   other . . . . . . Historic Townsite
   10 acres

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**
   Topographic map, Townsite map and fence location map attached.

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

To construct approximately 3 3/4 miles of fence around the townsite of Bannack. The fence will be a combination of jack leg and barb wire, with the jack leg portion constructed where it would be visible from the townsite. The barb wire portion will be supported by either wooden posts or metal, depending on the dictates of aesthetics and terrain. There will be approximately 3/4 mile of jack leg fence and 3 miles of barb wire.

There will be no blading done along the fence line. A tractor with post hole driver will be used to pound the fence posts. The fence will connect to a pre-existing BLM fence on the south side of the park that almost parallels our boundary. The east end of town is very narrow and steep and we have never had a problem with livestock encroachment from this end of town.

Park staff has met with the lease holder that grazes the surrounding BLM property and got input on placement of fences in relation to cattle behavior. The aesthetics of the landscape were also considered in determining fence location.

The purpose of this project is to exclude livestock from the historic townsite, campgrounds and picnic area at Bannack State Park. The reason is for the safety and welfare of the 30,000+ visitors to the park each year and for the protection of the valuable and irreplaceable cultural, architectural and historical resources that the State of Montana and specifically the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks is legally and morally obligated and entrusted to protect.

Livestock have long had free reign in the park and the damage to the historic townsite has been considerable. Livestock often move into the townsite in the fall and winter months for protection from the cold. They push their way into historic buildings, leaving damage and waste products behind. Bulls have broken out windows and broken boardwalks. In addition to causing damage to the townsite, bulls also frequent the campgrounds along the Grasshopper Creek during the busy summer months This presents a serious problem from a public safety and state liability standpoint. Under current range laws, the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks is obligated to fence these cattle out of the property.

This benefits of this project will not only to protect valuable and irreplaceable historic resources for current and future generations, but will also improve the safety for park users and decrease the liability to the State of Montana.

10. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO): Review and clearance on impacts to significant cultural resources. 6-21-94 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Design and Construction Bureau: Fence Construction Standards.

(b) Funding:

Agency Name Funding Amount

MT. Fish, Wildlife and Parks; $10,000 for materials
Montana Conservation Corps; Labor paid through a federal grant

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name Type of Responsibility

Bureau of Land Management; review of EA, compliance with Federal National Environmental Policy Act, Permits for crossing BLM ground with the fence and wying into existing BLM fence.

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society
Bureau of Land Management, Dillon Office
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Montana Conservation Corps.
Montana Natural Heritage Program

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES	IMPACT ☼				Can Impact Be Mitigate	CommenIndex
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknow	None	Minor•	PotentialSignifica		
▶ a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?						
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
▶ c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other __________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR	IMPACT ☼				Can Impact Be Mitigated ☼	Comment Index
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown ☼	None	Minor ☼	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦ For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)						
f. Other ____________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

☼ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impac has not or can not be evaluated.

▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. WATER	IMPACT ○				Can Impact Be Mitigated ○	Comment Index
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown ○	None	Minor ○	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperatura, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surfaca runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ◆◆For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)						
m. ◆For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)						
n. Other: ______________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

○ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ☼				Can Impact Be Mitigated ☼	Comment Index
	Unknown ☼	None	Minor ☼	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		YES	4a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X		Yes	4b.
c. Adverse affects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?						
g. Other: ____________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4a. Elimination of grazing by cattle will increase the diversity, productivity and abundance of plant species. This is especially true of the native and sensitive plant species found along Grasshopper Creek, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Plant Ecologist Hank Jorgensen.

4b. Species that are commonly grazed by livestock will show a marked increase in viability. Several sensitive plant species that have been identified in this area, Astragalus scaphoides and Penstemon lemhiensis, will be further protected by this action.

☼ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

▸ 5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT○				Can Impact Be Mitigated○	Comment Index
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown○	None	Minor○	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?			X		Yes	5a.
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)						
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)						
j. Other: ______________						

ative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5a. This project will serve to improve fish habitat along the Grasshopper Creek by eliminating cattle tresspass from approximately 1 mile of creek bed.

○ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ☼				Can Impact Be Mitigated ☼	Comment Index
	Unknown ☼	None	Minor ☼	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		Yes	6a.
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: ______________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a. Noise levels would temporarily increase during operation of post hole pounders. Upon completion of the project, there would be no impacts from noise.

☼ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. LAND USE	IMPACT ○				Can Impact Be Mitigated ○	Comment Index
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown ○	None	Minor ○	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X		Yes	7a.
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse affects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: ______________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7a. Cattle have been grazing in Bannack for many years without remuneration to the State of Montana. Elimination of grazing from the Bannack townsite will not reduce any profitibility to the State of Montana from a fiscal standpoint, but will serve to increase the productivity of native plant species from an ecological standpoint.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT ○				Can Impact Be Mitigated ○	Comment Index
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown ○	None	Minor ○	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other: ______________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

○ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ☼				Can Impact Be Mitigated ☼	Comment Index
	Unknown ☼	None	Minor ☼	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?			X		Yes	9a
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: ______________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9a. This project will use Montana Youth Conservation Corps enrollees and Federal Job Incentive employees for the majority of the project, providing on the job training and experience for low income and unemployed youth and adults.

☼ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ✪				Can Impact Be Mitigated ✪	Comment Index
	Unknown ✪	None	Minor ✪	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: ____________			X		Yes	10a
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
► e. Define projected revenue sources						10b
► f. Define projected maintenance costs.						10c
g. Other:____________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10a. Reduction in grazing may result in an increase in vegetation and potential increase in fire hazard. Hazard will be mitigated through increased sagebrush/vegetation management as part of overall Bannack plan.

10b. The revenue source for this project is the Bannack operations budget and capital materials budget. The MCC crew has committed to three weeks of work on the fence in exchange for housing and a food stipend. Remaining work will be done with park staff and volunteer crews.

10c. Once the fence is completed, yearly maintenance should be minimal, or approximately $200 per year. This funding will come from the Bannack operations budget.

✪ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

▶ 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ✪				Can Impact Be Mitigated ✪	Comment Index
	Unknown ✪	None	Minor ✪	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▶c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)						
e. Other: ______________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ✪				Can Impact Be Mitigated ✪	Comment Index
	Unknown ✪	None	Minor ✪	Potentially Significant		
▶a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? **Attach SHPO letter of clearance.** (Also see 12.a)						
e. Other: ______________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

✪ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

▸13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE W[illegible] the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT ○				Can Impact Be Mitigated ○	Comment Index
	Unknown ○	None	Minor ○	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ◆For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)						
g. ◆◆For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

N[illegible]tive Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

[illegible] Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has'not or can not be evaluated.

▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

ALTERNATIVE #1. **NO ACTION** Under this alternative, a fence would not be built. Livestock would continue to trespass in the historic townsite of Bannack and through the public use areas, causing a detriment to the resource as well as a hazard to the visiting public. The State of Montana and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks would be negligent in its' responsibility to protect the resource and provide a safe facility for the public.

ALTERNATIVE #2. **FENCE ONLY KEY AREAS** This alternative would seek to construct a fence that only encircles the townsite, campgrounds and picnic area of Bannack. While this alternative would fulfill the obligation and desire to protect the historic resources of Bannack, it would fall short of being completely satisfactory by failing to protect additional cultural and botanical resources along the Grasshopper Creek. This alternative would also fail to take into consideration the aesthetics of locating the fence where it would be least intrusive to the landscape and most beneficial to cattle management by the neighboring lease holder. Fences, in order to stay only on current park property, would need to parallel the entrance road and cut across open hillsides.

ALTERNATIVE #3. **FENCE APPROXIMATELY 150 ACRES.** This alternative is the proposed action and the preferred alternative. This alternative would fence Bannack for maximum protection with minimum impact. This option would fence along natural land contours and with cattle behavior and needs in mind. This would also exclude some Bannack State Park land from its' boundaries. The fence would enclose approximately 150 acres and would serve to provide protection for not only historical, architectural and cultural resources within and surrounding the townsite, but would also serve to protect the sensitive, native plant species along Grasshopper Creek and on the hillsides on the north side of Bannack.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

We have received clearance from the State Historical Preservation Office on 6-21-94, signed by K. Huppe, that they "concur the project will have no effect on National Register Historic Properties". (See Addendum A.)

We have received several status reports from the Montana Natural Heritage Program on the sensitive, native plant species in and around Bannack. (See Addendum B.)

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

NO. An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action because there are only minor impacts to the physical and human environment.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

A meeting was held at Bannack State Park on 4-20-94 to discuss this fence, along with additional issues concerning Bannack. In addition, several trips were made with the grazing lease holder that utilizes the surrounding BLM land and his recommendations for fence locations and lay-out were noted and considered in the fence design for alternative #3. Public comment will be solicited through legal notices in the helena Independent Record, The Montana Standard and the Dillon Tribune advertising the availibility of copies of the EA and the dates of the 30 day comment period.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

September 14, 1994 throuth 5:00pm Octover 14, 1994

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:
Cindy Staszak
Bannack State Park Manager
4200 Bannack Road
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 834-3413

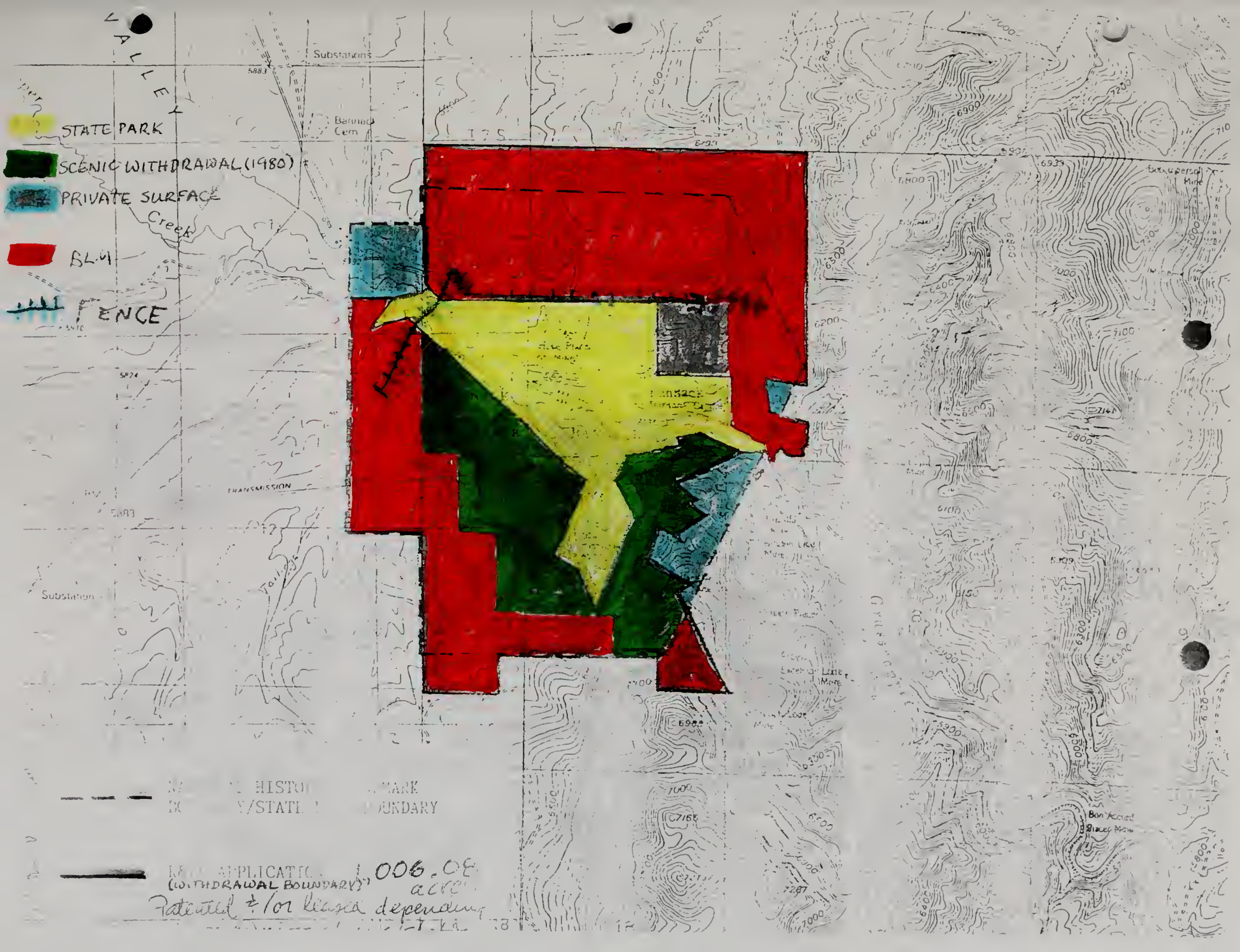
PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

Executive Summary

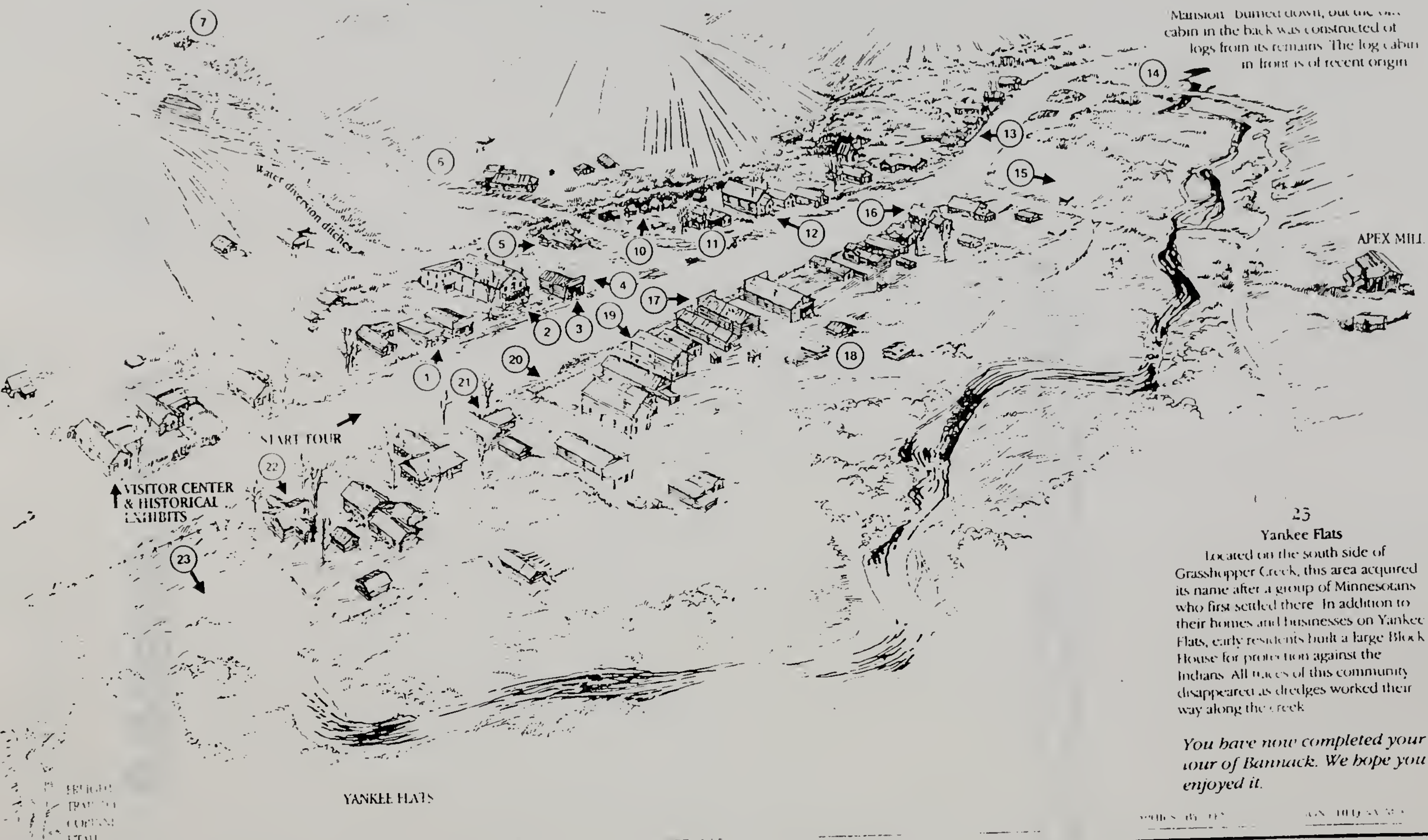
Bannack State Park has long been recognized as one of Montana's major historic sites and was designated as a Historic Landmark in 1962. It is the site of the first major gold strike in the state and the first capital of Montana Territory. Founded in 1862, Bannack is a microcosm of Montana history and the history of the mining frontier in the west.

The State of Montana became involved in Bannack in 1954 when the Beaverhead Museum Association of Dillon donated 17 parcels of land as a state park. Today,k the entire townsite is under state ownership. There are over 40 buildings of major significance and many smaller buildings in Bannack. Because they are under one ownership, they will be protected into the future for the enjoyment of the many people that come to see this early mining community.

Cattle grazing was once a part of this mining community when the buildings were new and corrals and holding pens existed to control their movements. Today, the weathered, weakened and decaying structures cannot tolerate the free range of livestock without irreversible damage to the historic fabric and integrity of our history. This project seeks to protect this resource in the least intrusive, most compatible manner possible.


VALLEY
STATE PARK
SCENIC WITHDRAWAL (1980)
PRIVATE SURFACE
BLM
FENCE
Creek
Substations
Bannack Cem
T 7 S
TRANSMISSION
Substation
Grasshopper Creek
HISTO ARK
/STATE UNDARY
APPLICATIO
(WITHDRAWAL BOUNDARY) 1,006.08 acres
Patented &/or leased depending
5883
5874
6200
6300
6400
6500
6600
6800
6900
7000
7100
7165
7200
7287
Bon Accord
Blue Wing

"Mansion" burned down, but the old cabin in the back was constructed of logs from its remains. The log cabin in front is of recent origin.



23
Yankee Flats

Located on the south side of Grasshopper Creek, this area acquired its name after a group of Minnesotans who first settled there. In addition to their homes and businesses on Yankee Flats, early residents built a large Block House for protection against the Indians. All traces of this community disappeared as dredges worked their way along the creek.

You have now completed your tour of Bannack. We hope you enjoyed it.

Addendum A

Review of Bannack State Park Townsite Fence
Project By State Historic Preservation Office

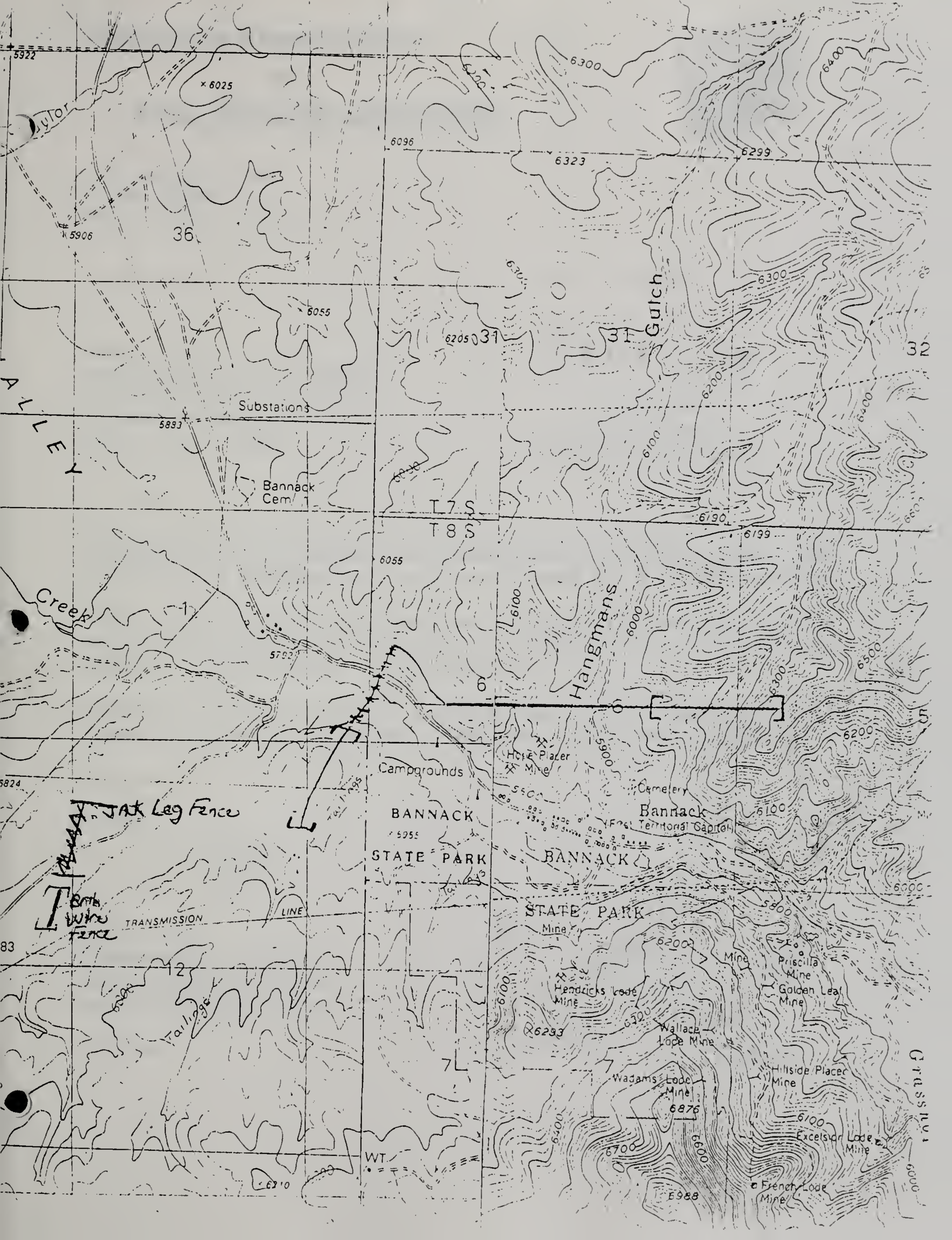
Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks

TO: Paul Valie
FR: Cindy Staszak
RE: Bannack Fence
DT: May 20, 1994

Enclosed please find a map with the proposed fence boundaries indicated. The map indicates which will be jack leg fence, and which will be barb wire. The barb wire will be supported by either wooden posts or metal, depending on the dictates of aesthetics and terrain. There will be approximately 3/4 mile of jack leg fence and 3 miles of barb wire.

We are not planning on doing any blading along the fence line. We will be allowing a contractor to use a tractor to pound the fence posts. We will be connecting into a pre existing BLM fence on the south side of the park that almost parallels our boundary. The east end of town is very narrow and steep and we have never had a problem with livestock encroachment.

Please let us know if SHPO requires an archaeological survey. A local Forest Service archaeologist, Ben Munger, has done some volunteer work for us in the past and may be willing to walk the fence line on a volunteer basis.


5922
6025
6300
6400
6096
6323
6299
5906
36
6300
6055
6205
31
31
Gulch
32
Substations
5883
6200
6400
6100
VALLEY
Bannack
Cem
T 7 S
T 8 S
6190
6199
6055
Creek
1
6100
Hangmans
6000
5792
6
6
6500
6300
5
6200
Hope Placer
Mine
5900
Campgrounds
5824
Cemetery
6100
Jack Leg Fence
BANNACK
Bannack
(First Territorial Capitol)
5955
STATE PARK
BANNACK
STATE PARK
6000
5800
Barb wire Fence
TRANSMISSION
LINE
Mine
6200
Mine
Priscilla
Mine
83
12
Golden Leaf
Mine
Tailings
6100
Hendricks Lode
Mine
6293
6700
Wallace
Lode Mine
7
Hillside Placer
Mine
Wadams Lode
Mine
6876
6100
6400
Excelsior Lode
Mine
6700
6900
WT.
6210
French Lode
Mine
6988
6000
Grasshopper

Katy

47
2 ⓔ
11/A
o.l.

Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

MAY 27 1994

RECEIVED
JUN 22 1994
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

May 25, 1994

Marcella Sherfy
State Historical Preservation Officer
State Historical Preservation Society
225 North Roberts
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Marcella:

The Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks is planning to do some fencing at Bannack State Park. This fencing is proposed to exclude livestock from the Park to protect the resource.

Attached is a map of the proposed fence project. Both jack-leg and barb wire with driven steel or wood posts are proposed, as indicated. There will be no blading along the fence line and the fence will be connecting to an existing BLM fence line.

We believe, based on location and scope, that the proposed project will have a low likelihood of impacting significant cultural resources. Please provide us with your comments.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Valle

PAUL VALLE
Cultural Resources Coordinator
Design & Construction Bureau
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Attachment

CONCUR
PROJECT WILL HAVE
NO EFFECT ON NRHP QUALITIES
[illegible] SHPO
DATE 6/21/94 K. Huppe

Addendum B

List of Plant Species of Special Concern as Compiled by the Montana Natural Heritage Program in the Vicinity of Bannack State Park

Montana Natural Heritage Program
1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

June 23, 1994

Cindy Staszak
Bannack Park Manager
4200 Bannack Road
Dillon, Montana 59725

Dear Cindy,

On June 17, 1993, I surveyed the Bannack townsite for plant species of concern which might be impacted by the proposed Bannack Building Stabilization Project. The townsite has had a long history of disturbance associated with residential and mining activity and its vegetation is dominated by introduced grasses and weeds, although big sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentata* var. *tridentata*) is recolonizing the site. The townsite was searched for plant species of concern but none were found, and the habitat does not seem appropriate for any known from the area. Plant species of concern previously known from the Bannack, Badger Pass area include *Astragalus scaphoides* (Bitterroot Milk-vetch), *Penstemon lemhiensis* (Lemhi Beardtongue), and an undescribed species of *Lesquerella* (Bladderpod). The first two of these occur in sagebrush habitats which are drier than the townsite and are dominated by *Artemesia tridentata* var. *vaseyana* or *A. nova*, rather than the bottomland *A. tridentata* var. *tridentata*. The bladderpod occurs only on limestone. Although there is suitable habitat for these species within the State Park, it is not within the boundaries of the proposed project. An additional plant known from the area (but not found within the townsite), *Arenaria kingii* (King's Sandwort), was previously listed by the Montana Natural Heritage Program as a species of concern but has been found to be very common in many habitats throughout Beaverhead County and has subsequently been dropped from tracking. The proposed stabilization activity poses no threat to plant species of concern or native plant communities in the park.

Sincerely,

Jim Vanderhorst

Jim Vanderhorst
Botanist

February 9, 1994

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ASTRAGALUS SCAPHOIDES
Common Name: BITTERROOT MILKVETCH

Global rank: G3 Forest Service status:
State rank: S1 Federal Status: 3C

Element occurrence code: PDFAB0F7V0.001
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: BON ACCORD BENCH
EO rank: A
EO rank comments:

County: BEAVERHEAD

USGS quadrangle: BANNACK

Township:	Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
008S	011W	08	SE4; 9 SW4

Precision: S
Survey date: 1984-06-11 Elevation: 5900 -
First observation: 1983 Slope/aspect: 13% / SW
Last observation: 1984-06-11 Size (acres): 30

Location:
2 KM SOUTHEAST OF BANNACK.

Element occurrence data:
CA. 200-300 INDIVIDUALS; NO SIGNS OF RECENT LIVESTOCK GRAZING; 30% OF REPRODUCTIVE PLANTS PRODUCED FRUIT (LESICA, UNPUBLISHED).

General site description:
GRAVELLY SILT FROM LIMESTONE PARENT MATERIAL; WITH ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA, A. NOVA, AGROPYRON SPICATUM, AND STIPA COMATA.

Land owner/manager:
BLM: BUTTE DISTRICT, DILLON RESOURCE AREA
PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source: LESICA, P. 1984. REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF ASTRAGALUS SCAPHOIDES, A CANDIDATE THREATENED SPECIES. UNPUBLISHED REPORT TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, DENVER, CO, 20 PP. PLUS APPENDICES.

Specimens: LESICA, P. (2697, 2988). 1983, 1984. (MONTU).

February 9, 1994

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ASTRAGALUS SCAPHOIDES
Common Name: BITTERROOT MILKVETCH

Global rank:	G3	Forest Service status:	
State rank:	S1	Federal Status:	3C

Element occurrence code: PDFAB0F7V0.001
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: BON ACCORD BENCH
EO rank: A
EO rank comments:

County: BEAVERHEAD

USGS quadrangle: BANNACK

Township:	Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
008S	011W	08	SE4; 9 SW4

Precision:	S		
Survey date:	1984-06-11	Elevation:	5900 -
First observation:	1983	Slope/aspect:	13% / SW
Last observation:	1984-06-11	Size (acres):	30

Location:
2 KM SOUTHEAST OF BANNACK.

Element occurrence data:
CA. 200-300 INDIVIDUALS; NO SIGNS OF RECENT LIVESTOCK GRAZING; 30% OF REPRODUCTIVE PLANTS PRODUCED FRUIT (LESICA, UNPUBLISHED).

General site description:
GRAVELLY SILT FROM LIMESTONE PARENT MATERIAL; WITH ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA, A. NOVA, AGROPYRON SPICATUM, AND STIPA COMATA.

Land owner/manager:
BLM: BUTTE DISTRICT, DILLON RESOURCE AREA
PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source: LESICA, P. 1984. REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF ASTRAGALUS SCAPHOIDES, A CANDIDATE THREATENED SPECIES. UNPUBLISHED REPORT TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, DENVER, CO, 20 PP. PLUS APPENDICES.

Specimens: LESICA, P. (2697, 2988). 1983, 1984. (MONTU).

February 9, 1994

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: LESQUERELLA SP NOV 1
Common Name: UNDESCRIBED BLADDERPOD

Global rank: G2 Forest Service status:
State rank: S2 Federal Status:

Element occurrence code: PDBRA1N240.003
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: BANNACK
EO rank: CD
EO rank comments:

County: BEAVERHEAD

USGS quadrangle: BANNACK

Township:	Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
006S	011W	05	SW4NW4

Precision: S
Survey date: 1992-06-25 Elevation: 6320 - 6400
First observation: 1992-06-25 Slope/aspect: 25% / WSW
Last observation: 1992-06-25 Size (acres):

Location:
DIRECTLY NORTHEAST ABOVE BANNACK TOWNSITE, ON RIDGE ABOVE HANGMAN'S GULCH.

Element occurrence data:
9 PLANTS, IN LATE FRUITING. RARE.

General site description:
LONG, STEEP, OPEN PRAIRIE SLOPE BELOW RIDGETOP; CERCOCARPUS LEDIFOLIUS COMMUNITY. IN AGROPYRON SPICATUM-ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA ASSOCIATION, WITH LINUM LEWISII, HAPLOPAPPUS ACAULIS, ARTEMISIA FRIGIDA, ALLIUM TEXTILE, CAREX ROSSII.

Land owner/manager:
BLM: BUTTE DISTRICT, DILLON RESOURCE AREA

Comments:
DETERMINED LESQUERELLA SP NOVUM BY REED ROLLINS, 3/93.

Information source: HEIDEL, B. L. 1992. [FIELD SURVEY TO BANNACK AREAS, BIG HOLE AREAS, BADGER PASS AREAS OF 25 JUNE, 2 JULY, 5 AUG.]

Specimens: HEIDEL, B. (706). 1992.

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ARENARIA KINGII
Common Name: KING'S ARENARIA

Global rank: G4 Forest Service status: SENSITIVE
State rank: S1 Federal Status:

Element occurrence code: PDCAR040D0.003
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: GRASSHOPPER CREEK
EO rank:
EO rank comments:

County: BEAVERHEAD

USGS quadrangle: BANNACK

Township:	Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
008S	011W	08	N2

Precision: M
Survey date: 1976-05-21 Elevation: 6000 -
First observation: 1976 Slope/aspect:
Last observation: 1976-05-21 Size (acres): 0

Location:
GRASSHOPPER CREEK, CA. 1 MILE SOUTHEAST OF BANNACK.

Element occurrence data:
"PETALS WHITE, STYLES 3."

General site description:
GRAVELLY SLOPE. WITH ARTEMISIA, IPOMOPSIS.

Land owner/manager:
BLM: BUTTE DISTRICT, DILLON RESOURCE AREA
PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:
NONE.

Information source: BOTANIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, HELENA, MT 59620-1800.

Specimens: DORN, R. D. (2573). 1976. SPECIMEN #67138. MONT.

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: ASTRAGALUS SCAPHOIDES
[illegible]mmon Name: BITTERROOT MILKVETCH

Global rank: G3 Forest Service status:
State rank: S1 Federal Status: 3C

Element occurrence code: PDFAB0F7V0.009
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: GRASSHOPPER CREEK
EO rank:
EO rank comments:

County: BEAVERHEAD

USGS quadrangle: BANNACK

Township:	Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
008S	011W	08	

Precision: M
Survey date: Elevation: 5900 -
First observation: 1983 Slope/aspect:
Last observation: 1983-06-26 Size (acres): 0

Location:
0.25 MILE NORTH OF GRASSHOPPER CREEK. (CA. 1.5 MILES SOUTHEAST OF BANNACK.)

Element occurrence data:
UNCOMMON.

General site description:
ON A LOWER EAST-FACING SLOPE OF A SIDE DRAINAGE, CALCAREOUS PARENT. ASSOCIATED SPECIES: ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA, AGROPYRON SPICATUM.

Land owner/manager:
BLM: BUTTE DISTRICT, DILLON RESOURCE AREA
PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:
HERBARIUM LABEL READS "5700 FT."; OCCURRENCE MAPPED AT 5900 FT.

Information source: LESICA, PETER. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT 59812.

Specimens: LESICA, P. (2673). 1983. SPECIMEN #92922. MONTU. (MRPP CARD)..